

Chapters 7-8

1. Draw upon documents such as John O'Sullivan's editorial (1845), Major Auguste Davezac's speech of 1846, and the lithograph of Currier & Ives, "Westward the Course of Empire," and John Gast's later painting "America's Progress" to construct a historical narrative explaining the ethos of Manifest Destiny and its appeal to 19th-century American industrial workers and small farmers.
2. Interpret documentary evidence from maps, political speeches, diaries, and letters to construct sound historical arguments, debates, or narratives on such questions relating to the Mexican-American War as:
 - What role did the annexation of Texas and the American desire for California play in leading to the outbreak of war between Mexico and the United States?
 - Was the war justified?
 - On what grounds did such critics as Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Henry David Thoreau oppose the war?
 - On what grounds did supporters of President Polk's policies justify going to war?
 - To what extent did the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo reflect the spirit of Manifest Destiny?
3. Identify the issues surrounding the controversy over Oregon and evaluate Polk's campaign slogan "54° 40' or fight."
 - How practical was Polk's call for annexation of the entire Oregon Territory?
 - Would it have been realistic for the United States to conduct a war over disputed territories with Mexico and Great Britain simultaneously?
 - To what extent was the negotiated treaty of 1846 a satisfactory solution to interested parties in the United States and Great Britain?